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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of hidden node detection at an access point of a wireless communication system including at least the access point and a plurality of nodes, comprising:

broadcasting a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node detection;

broadcasting a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the access point;

receiving a plurality of nodes report[[s]] from each of a plurality of reporting nodes of [[a]] the wireless communication system wherein a nodes report of the plurality of the nodes reports includes node communication related parameters of said other nodes of the wireless communication system which are measured collected by a reporting node; and

detecting a hidden node by analyzing the measured node communication related parameters of nodes of the wireless communication system based on the nodes reports from the plurality of the reporting nodes reports.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing comprises:
detecting an unreported node; and
sending a command to activate activating a hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing comprises:

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     detecting a signal strength below or equal to a threshold; and

     sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting node.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:

     sending a command to enable ~~ing~~ a request-to-send\clear-to-send (RTS\CTS) control mechanism.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:

     sending a subset of power adjustment commands to a subset of nodes based on the nodes report.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:

     sending a command to enable ~~ing~~ a request-to-send\clear-to-send (RTS\CTS) control mechanism.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism comprises:

     sending a subset of power adjustment commands to a subset of nodes based on the nodes report.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

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12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a wireless communication system including
    at least the apparatus and a plurality of nodes, comprising:

        a transmitter to broadcast a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a
    hidden node protection, and to broadcast a second command to the plurality of
    nodes to send a nodes report to the apparatus;

        a receiver to receive a plurality of nodes report[[s]] from each of a plurality of
    reporting nodes of [[a]] the wireless communication system, wherein a nodes report
    of the plurality of reports includes one or more node communication related
    parameters of other nodes of the wireless communication system which are
    collected measured by a reporting node; and

        a hidden node detector to detect a hidden node in [[a]] the wireless
    communication system by detection of an unreported node in at least one nodes
    report of from the plurality of reporting nodes reports.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 16, comprising:
        a controller to activate a hidden node protection mechanism on a reporting
    node if a hidden node is detected.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the one or more node

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communication related parameters includes a signal strength indicator and the

hidden node detector is able to detect a hidden node by analyzing the signal

strength indicator.

20. (Canceled.).

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the hidden node

protection mechanism comprises a request-to-send\clear-to-send (RTS\CTS)

control mechanism.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the hidden node

protection mechanism comprises a transmitted power control mechanism that

includes a subset of desired transmitted power levels related to the subset of nodes.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Canceled).

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication system comprising:

a ~~station~~ node to generate a nodes report of a plurality of other nodes of the

wireless communication system wherein the nodes report includes one or more

communication related parameters of said plurality of nodes whose signals are

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received and measured at the station; and

an access point to broadcast a first command to the node to start a hidden node detection, to broadcast a second command to the node to send the nodes report to the access point, and to detect a hidden node in the wireless communication system by detection of an unreported node in at least one node report of the plurality of node reports received from one or more stations nodes of the wireless communication system.

29. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the access point is able to activate a hidden node protection mechanism at the node to protect the station node from transmissions of the hidden node.

30. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein said communication related parameters comprises a signal strength indicator of the plurality of nodes and the access point is able to detect a hidden node by analyzing said signal strength indicator.

31. (Previously Presented) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the access point is able to detect a hidden node by detection of an unreported node at the nodes report.

32. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 29, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a request-to-send\clear-to-send (RTS\CTS) control mechanism.

33. (Original) The wireless communication system of claim 28, wherein the hidden node protection mechanism comprises a transmitted power control mechanism that includes a subset of desired transmitted power levels related to the subset of nodes.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Canceled).

36. (Canceled)..

37. (Canceled).

38. (Canceled).

39. (Currently Amended) An article <u>for use in hidden node detection at an access point of a wireless communication system including at least the access point and a plurality of nodes,</u> comprising:

a storage medium, having stored thereon instructions, that when executed, result in:

<u>broadcasting a first command to the plurality of nodes to start a hidden node detection;</u>

<u>broadcasting a second command to the plurality of nodes to send a nodes report to the access point;</u>

receiving a ~~plurality of~~ nodes report[[s]] from <u>each of</u> a plurality of reporting nodes of [[a]] <u>the</u> wireless communication system wherein a nodes report ~~of the plurality of the nodes~~ reports includes node communication related parameters of other nodes of the wireless communication system which are ~~collected~~ <u>measured</u> by a reporting node; and

detecting a hidden node by analyzing the <u>measured</u> node communication related parameters of nodes of the wireless communication system based on the <u>nodes reports from the</u> plurality of ~~the~~ <u>reporting</u> nodes ~~reports~~.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 39 wherein the instructions when

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executed, result in:

detecting an unreported node; and

sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection
mechanism on a reporting node.

42. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 39 wherein the instructions when
executed, result in:

detecting a signal strength below or equal to a threshold; and

sending a command to activate ~~activating~~ a hidden node protection mechanism
on a reporting node.